

Today's News - Monday, June 3, 2013

- ArcSpace brings us eyefuls of Sambuichi Architects' Inujima Seirenscho Art Museum that recycles the remnants of history.
- Hawthorne shows us Zumthor's "Black Flower" design for LACMA: a "powerfully unorthodox new building" that "would give Los Angeles a much-needed jolt of architectural energy" - it is "mysterious without being aloof" (the devil will be in the details re: demolition and dollars).
- Some "significant changes" in Phifer's final design for the Corning Museum of Glass expansion: "If you think you know all of the answers when you start a project and present a design, you aren't thinking hard enough."
- Capps offers an in-depth - and fascinating - take on the probable bursting of DS+R's Hirshhorn Bubble and "why that's a tragedy for contemporary art and architecture in D.C. There is much more than inflatable architecture at stake."
- Rick Mather's office contests claims it was not big enough to handle the expansion of the Peabody Essex Museum, suggesting the real reason it was dropped could be that the museum wants a bigger name.
- Rago takes a show "On the Road" with a flotilla of U-Haul trucks-cum-galleries to show off young designers around L.A. - part of a year-long project.
- Moore is more impressed with the interiors of the Mary Rose Museum; too bad it's "marred by its ship-like design" outside.
- Steinberg delves into the sticky wicket that is dogging cities everywhere: what to do with shuttered schools "in an equitable and rational fashion"; it will require "robust civic engagement" and working "with the affected communities on what is possible."
- Somers Cocks digs deep into the possible death of Venice caused by 30 years of "politicized wrangling" that has put the city at risk: "Sadly, the question of who will save 'the fairy city of the heart' remains open, and time is running out."
- On brighter notes, Sydney's newest estate "aims to blend social housing and lavish landscapes."
- Hume hails the 10th anniversary of Toronto's Yonge-Dundas Square: "Given the indignities visited upon it" it is "a triumph of urbanism" - "a balancing act" that the architects "pulled off brilliantly."
- Hattam reports from Istanbul on the violent protests to save the city's last public park from being turned into a shopping mall (there's more to it than that, of course).
- An eyeful of why Guinness World Records recognized Turkmenistan's capital for "having the world's highest density of buildings made from white marble" (never mind its dismal human rights record).
- Kamin reminisces on his early days at the Des Moines Register, now the paper is moving to new digs: the "building oozed character, despite flaws. That sort of patina is priceless and irreplaceable."
- A good reason to be in NYC at the end of the week: an impressive line-up for "Le Corbusier/New York," a two-day international symposium in conjunction with MoMA's upcoming "Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes."
- Eyefuls of Denver Architectural League's 2013 Micro Housing Ideas Competition winners, who hail from Mexico, Spain, Portugal, and Egypt.
- The Graham Foundation hands out over \$500,000 in grants to 60 projects (great presentations!).
- USGBC-LA Westside Branch launches Win:Win: A Journal for the New Sustainable City "to promote the conversation about sustainability beyond LEED."

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Sambuichi Architects: Inujima Seirenscho Art Museum, Inujima, Higashi-ku, Okayama, Japan: Recycling the Remnants of History

LACMA's future unfurls in Peter Zumthor's design: ...an undulating building dubbed 'the Black Flower,' marks an ambitious step for director Michael Govan and L.A. architecture...A powerfully unorthodox new building...Bracingly forward-looking...would give the city a much-needed jolt of architectural energy...mysterious without being aloof... By Christopher Hawthorne -- William Pereira (1965); Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer (1986) [slide show] - Los Angeles Times

Thomas Phifer Reveals His Final Design for the Corning Museum of Glass: ...the 100,000-square-foot museum expansion in Corning, N.Y. includes significant changes..."If you think you know all of the answers when you start a project and present a design, you aren't thinking hard enough"... By Katie Gerfen -- Thomas Phifer & Partners [images] - Architect Magazine

Deflationary Measures: In all likelihood, the Hirshhorn's Bubble has burst. Why that's a tragedy for contemporary art and architecture in D.C...There is much more than inflatable architecture at stake with the likely cancellation of the Bubble and the resignation of Richard Koshalek...Low morale is a serious problem, but if it was the Bubble—a progressive, popular, and relatively inexpensive proposal—that broke the Hirshhorn, then the museum had already been broken. By Kriston Capps -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Washington City Paper (Washington, DC)

"We could handle museum": Rick Mather Architects "met all deadlines" says partner Gavin Miller...has contested claims it was not big enough to handle the expansion of the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) in Massachusetts once the architect fell terminally ill...suggested the real reason they were dropped might have had more to do with the museum's desire to have a high-profile architect at the project's opening. - BD/Building Design (UK)

When in Doubt, Create Your Own Exhibit: Young Designers Take Their Show "On the Road": ...takes the form of a flotilla of U-Haul trucks turned impromptu galleries featuring new ideas in LA architecture. By Danielle Rago -- Andrew Kovacs; Bryony Roberts; Curt Gambetta; First Office; Foundation for Architecture and Design; House of Style; Jimenez Lai; Joe Alguire Workshop; Jonathan Louie; Maxi Spina Architects; Michael Faciejew; Paul Stoelting; Studio Bonner + Stayner Architects; Rowen Studio; T8projects; Vacation Projects; Wedgeworthy; WELCOMEPROJECTS-KCRW (Los Angeles)

Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth: The new home for the Mary Rose is marred by its ship-like design, but the excellent interiors show off the vessel's remains and relics to their full advantage...lobbies and cafes are...such as you might find in a good quality hotel or office. Some of the energy that went into making the building a quasi-boat could usefully have gone into these. By Rowan Moore -- Wilkinson Eyre Architects; Pringle Brandon Perkins+Will [slide show] - Observer (UK)

What to do with shuttered schools? ...not a single city has figured out how best to manage the magnitude of school closings in an equitable and rational fashion. Philadelphia is in many ways ahead of the curve...For this effort to have a chance at succeeding, the city must commit to robust civic engagement as part of the school-reuse strategy...work with the affected communities on what is possible. By Harris Steinberg/PennPraxis - Philly.com (Philadelphia)

[The Coming Death of Venice? What is going on here? The answer is that over the last 30 years Venice has become the object of so much politicized wrangling, in which the truth has been the first victim...putting the city at risk...Sadly, the question of who will save "the fairy city of the heart," as Byron called it, remains open, and time is running out. By Anna Somers Cocks - New York Review of Books](#)

[Sydney's newest estate all about community living: ...Washington Park aims to blend social housing and lavish landscapes to create a harmonious and liveable community...about 780 apartments across 11 buildings ranging from four to 10 storeys...and more than 105 hectares of adjoining parkland and waterways. -- Turner + Associates Architects; Koichi Takada Architects \[images\]- Architecture & Design \(Australia\)](#)

[Yonge-Dundas Square has helped bring Toronto into 21st century: ...opened in 2003 to public consternation. It's not a park, it's a square...The most remarkable thing...is that it's not a failure. Given the indignities visited upon it...a triumph of urbanism...For the architects who designed the square...the project was a balancing act, one they pulled off brilliantly. By Christopher Hume -- Brown + Storey Architects \(2003\)- Toronto Star](#)

[Violence, Tear Gas Greet Protests to Save One of the Last Public Parks in Istanbul: The battle over Gezi Park has become a symbol of opposition to the city's massive urban upheaval...protesters seek to halt the demolition of the park and the building of a shopping mall...as part of the pedestrianization of the Taksim Square transit hub... By Jennifer Hattam - The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Turkmenistan's Capital Named World's 'White-Marble' City: Ashgabat...recognized by Guinness World Records as having the world's highest density of buildings made from white marble...Meanwhile, according to a new report by Amnesty International, Turkmen citizens are deprived of basic human rights... \[images\]- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty \(RFE/RL\)](#)

[Des Moines Register building oozed character, despite flaws: ...it's hard to put a positive gloss on leaving a building that has witnessed nearly a century of world-class journalists...That sort of patina is priceless and irreplaceable. By Blair Kamin -- Proudfoot, Bird & Rawson \(1918\); Cal Lewis/Charles Herbert & Associates \(1983\)- Des Moines Register \(Iowa\)](#)

["Le Corbusier/New York": ...two-day international symposium...in conjunction with MoMA's exhibition "Le Corbusier: An Atlas of Modern Landscapes" - June 8-9- Center for Architecture / AIA NY \(NYC\)](#)

[2013 Micro Housing Ideas Competition Winners: ...an effort to catalyze new ideas, and elevate the conversation about urban housing solutions... -- Denver Architectural League; SAC – Studio de Arquitectura y Ciudad; Tadeja Vidoni; A43 Arquitectura; Ahmed Hamdi Architects- ArchDaily](#)

[The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts announces its 2013 Grants to Individuals. This year, over \\$500,000 has been awarded to 60 projects.- Graham Foundation \(Chicago\)](#)

[Win:Win: A Journal for the New Sustainable City: USGBC-LA Westside Branch launches a new resource to promote the conversation about sustainability beyond LEED; first guest editor: Eric Corey Freed/organicARCHITECT- Win:Win Journal \(USGBC-Los Angeles Westside Branch\)](#)

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